AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated in the below listing of claims that will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from at least one remote electronic content source, the method comprising:

receiving at a client-side computer requests from two or more user terminals in the client network for a common desired streamed content from the at least one remote electronic content store;

said client-side computer forwarding at least one content request to the at least one remote electronic content store for the common desired streamed content;

providing a streamed unicast transmission of the requested content from the at least one content source for receipt by a client-side computer in the client network;

receiving by the client-side computer from the at least one content source a the streamed unicast transmission of the requested content in the client-side computer in response to said at least one content request;

processing the received content in the client-side computer for distribution to the requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network; and

said client-side computer distributing the received and processed streamed content corresponding to said streamed unicast transmission to each of the requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein distributing the received and processed streamed content comprises distributing the content to a multicast group including

each of the user terminals in the client network which has provided a request for content by subscribing to the multicast group.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 comprising terminating the content transmission from the at least one content source to the client-side computer when the client-side computer is not distributing the content to any of the requesting user terminals.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 comprising transmitting additional content from the at least one content source to the client-side computer in response to a request by at least one user terminal in the client network for content not currently being transmitted by the at least one content source to the client-side computer.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 5 wherein transmitting the additional content comprises transmitting the additional content in another unicast transmission from the at least one content source to the client-side computer.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein providing the streamed unicast transmission comprises unicast format content converted from converting multicast format content into unicast format content for transmission to the client-side computer.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the client-side computer wherein processing the received content, wherein said client-side computer processing comprises converting content received in a unicast format into a multicast format suitable for distribution to subscribers of a multicast group.

9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 comprising monitoring streamed content and maintaining an amount of bandwidth suitable for servicing at least one application, other than an application servicing the distributed content, being run by each of the requesting user terminals.

10. (canceled).

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the content is transmitted across the Internet.

12. (currently amended) A system for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals in a client network;

a content source which provides a streamed unicast transmission of content in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network;

a client-side computer in the client network that is operative in forwarding to the content source at least one of the requests of the two or more user terminals,which receives receiving the streamed unicast transmission of requested content, and distributing processes the streamed content and distributes the processed received content to the requesting user terminals in the client network such that two or more of the requesting user terminals receive the requested content corresponding to the streamed unicast transmission.

13. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the client-side computer comprises a listening socket for receiving and queuing content requests.

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the client-side computer includes software causing the client-side computer to form a multicast group including each of the user terminals in the client network which has provided a request for content by subscribing to the multicast group, the client-side computer comprising a monitoring program to monitor whether subscribers are requesting the content transmitted by the content source.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the monitoring program includes software that terminates the content transmission if no subscriber within the multicast group is requesting the streamed content from the content source.

16. (original) The system of claim 14 wherein the monitoring program includes software that requests transmission of an additional content stream if a subscriber within the multicast group is requesting content not currently being transmitted by the content source.

17. (previously presented) The system of claim 12 wherein the content source comprises circuitry that converts multicast format content into unicast format content for transmission to the client-side computer.

18. (currently amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the ~~wherein the~~ client-side computer comprises a pseudo media player that converts content received in unicast format into a multicast format suitable for distribution to the multicast group.

19. (previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the monitoring program includes software that ensures that a minimum amount of upstream bandwidth is preserved in a transmission path for accommodating application critical communications.

20. (currently amended) A method for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the method comprising:

receiving <u>at a client-side computer</u> requests from two or more user terminals in the client network for <u>a common desired</u> streamed content from the electronic content source;

<u>said client-side computer forwarding at least one content request to the at least one remote electronic content store for the common desired streamed content;</u>

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forming a multicast group comprising user terminals that have provided requests for the streamed content;

~~providing a streamed unicast transmission of the requested content from the content source for receipt by a client-side computer in the client network;~~

receiving <u>by the client-side computer from the at least one content source a</u> ~~the~~ streamed unicast transmission of the requested content ~~in the client-side computer~~ <u>in response to said at least one content request;</u>

~~processing the received content in the client-side computer such that the content is suitable for distribution to the multicast group;~~ and

<u>said client-side computer</u> distributing the received ~~and processed~~ content <u>corresponding to said streamed unicast transmission</u> to each of the requesting user terminals of the client network in the multicast group.

21-22. (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) A method for providing a minimum quality of service in a reduced bandwidth network that provides streamed electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client from a remote electronic content source, the method comprising:

receiving <u>at a client-side computer</u> requests from two or more user terminals in a client network for <u>a common desired</u> streamed content from the at least one remote electronic content store;

<u>said client-side computer forwarding at least one content request to the at least one remote electronic content store for the common desired streamed content;</u>

~~providing a streamed unicast transmission of the requested content from the at least one content source for receipt by a client-side computer in the client network;~~

receiving ~~by the client-side computer from the at least one content source a~~ the streamed

unicast transmission of the requested content ~~in the client-side computer~~ in response to said at

least one content request;

~~processing the received content in the client-side computer for distributing to the~~

~~requesting plurality of user terminals in the client network;~~

said client-side computer distributing the received ~~and processed~~ streamed content

corresponding to said streamed unicast transmission to each of the requesting plurality of user

terminals in the client network; and

monitoring the client-side computer for potential quality of service problems.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the monitoring further

comprises assessing the availability of other client-side computers.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising replacing an

inoperative client-side computer with a computer deemed available in the assessing step to

maintain a minimum quality of service level.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 24 further comprising reassigning at least

part of a workload of a client-side computer deemed overburdened by fault detection software

with a computer deemed available in the assessing step to balance client-side computer

workload.

27. (currently amended) A system for providing streamed electronic content to a plurality

of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system

comprising:

a plurality of user terminals in a client network, each including a display device;

a content source which provides a streamed transmission in a unicast format of content in

response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network;

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a client-side computer in the client network <u>that is operative in forwarding to the content</u> <u>source at least one of the requests of the two or more user terminals,</u> ~~which receives~~ <u>receiving</u> the streamed unicast format transmission of requested content, <u>processing</u> ~~processes~~ the streamed content into a multicast format and ~~distributes~~ <u>distributing</u> the processed multicast format content to the requesting user terminals in the client network <u>such that two or more of the requesting user</u> <u>terminals receive the requested content corresponding to the streamed unicast format</u> <u>transmission;</u>

each of the plurality of terminals in the client network including software for processing received streamed multicast format content into unicast format for display on a respective display device.

28. (previously presented) The system of claim 27 wherein each of the plurality of terminals in the client network includes a local proxy which includes the software.

29. (currently amended) A system for providing electronic content to a plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system comprising:

a plurality of user terminals in a client network;

a content source which provides a streamed unicast transmission of content in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network;

a client-side computer in the client network <u>that is operative in forwarding to the content</u> <u>source at least one of the requests of the two or more user terminals,</u>~~which receives~~ <u>receiving</u> the streamed unicast transmission of requested content, <u>and distributing</u> ~~processes the streamed~~ ~~content and distributes~~ the received ~~and processed~~ content to the requesting user terminals in the client network <u>such that two or more of the requesting user terminals receive the requested</u> <u>content corresponding to the streamed unicast transmission;</u>

each of the plurality of terminals in the client network including a local proxy which

prepares the distributed streamed content for display at the respective user terminal.

30. (previously presented) A method for providing streamed electronic content to a

plurality of user terminals in a client network from a remote electronic content source, the system

comprising:

providing a streamed transmission in a unicast format of content from the remote content

source in response to the requests of two or more user terminals in the client network, at least

one of the requests being forwarded to the remote content source by a client-side computer in the

client network;

receiving the streamed unicast format transmission of requested content in a the

client-side computer in the client network;

processing possessing the streamed content into a multicast format in the client-side

computer;

distributing via the client-side computer the received and processed multicast format

content to the requesting user terminals in the client network;

processing received streamed multicast format content into unicast format in the

respective user terminal for display at a respective terminal.